

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2119

Title: TOR for the scoping of a Civil Society Strategy for London –Specification for Consultancy support

Executive Summary:

Civil Society is of importance to the GLA as it has a major role in addressing the needs of London's disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. It offers an effective and important engagement channel to London's diverse communities, offering the ability to consult and engage across the full range of the Mayor's priorities. The GLA, recognising the role of civil society, will be producing a civil society strategy. This will be of relevance to multiple teams across the GLA and so the work, as it progresses, will be shared with all Deputy Mayors so that cross organisational input can be obtained as required

This ADD is to request additional funding of £20,000 to contract external consultancy support for preparatory and scoping work on the Civil Society Strategy for London.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Health and Communities approves expenditure of up to £20,000 to contract external consultancy support for preparatory and scoping work on the Civil Society Strategy for London.

AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT:

I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval.

Name: Amanda Coyle

Position: Assistant Director of Health and Communities

Signature:



Date: 13 June 2017

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

The GLA wants to develop a strategy for London's civil society, working with civil society partners to develop this, and, indicating our response to the recommendations contained in The Way Ahead report, a pan London strategic vision for civil society.

This report has been a landmark proposal from London's civil society. The GLA now needs a more detailed analysis of some of the options within this and support to help the GLA set out what it will do to support London's civil society.

This support will include some work with internal GLA teams and some external stakeholder engagement to test our thinking as it develops.

The terms of reference for the work has been shared with all Deputy Mayors for information and comment. We will be working with the Intelligence team to ensure that any proposals about engaging with Londoners on these issues align with current activity and future proposals. In addition we will ensure that this scoping is shared with representatives from London Councils, so that we are able to feed into thinking and strategy development at a borough level.

This external contractor will provide us with resource to carry out the initial scoping work.

The expenditure of up to £20,000 will contract external consultancy support for preparatory and scoping work on the Civil Society Strategy for London.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

This consultancy support will help provide resource to progress the work in the short-term, providing external expertise to bolster internal capacity and to bridge resource gaps pending recruitment.

The work will include;

A proposed vision and a structure

1. An overarching vision of the role the GLA has to play in the infrastructure of civil society in London, both as convenor and active participant.
2. A proposal on the most appropriate structure(s) and methods to convene civil society leaders and groups to tackle the big issues facing London (e.g. via a 'Mayor's Challenge' model).

Building on the recommendations made in the Way Ahead on

3. Working with London Councils/Local Authorities and others to develop commissioning frameworks and promote and reward good practice which allows access to contract opportunities for civil society organisations.
4. Supporting and promoting innovation and models of best practice for civil society organisations, and creating networks to enable knowledge sharing and best practice to emerge
5. Setting out the way in which the GLA can work with cross sector partners to gather data on the sector and share it in the most effective way possible, including mapping of the sector

Development of voice and regional support

6. An exploration of the mechanisms that can be used to ensure that London grassroots organisations can have a say, and be involved in policy.
7. Working with partners to refine recommendations about the way that cross borough and local activity can be supported by sub-regional or regional bodies

3. Equality comments

Civil Society is of importance to the GLA as it has a major role in addressing the needs of London's disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. Participation in civil society/social action creates active citizens, improves social integration and has positive effects on skills development, wellbeing, happiness and crime reduction. It offers an effective and important engagement channel to London's diverse communities, offering the ability to consult and engage across the full range of the Mayor's priorities.

4. Other considerations

Risk	Mitigation
Because of lack of internal resource we are delayed with delivery of this work.	Tendering this piece of work to be obtain external support
We do not obtain a range of responses to the specification.	An open and transparent tender process and by sharing the opportunity widely through varied networks to ensure that we obtain a good spread of responses
The work undertaken by the external contractor does not align with internal work	Close management of the contract and ensuring that the contractors work plan is closely managed and that the contractor is working in a collaborative way with the commissioner

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 The estimated cost of £20,000 will be funded from the Diversity and Social Policy Team's budget for 2017-18.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Procurement of contract [for externally delivered projects]	June 2017
Announcement [if applicable]	n/a
Delivery Start Date [for project proposals]	June 2017
Delivery End Date [for project proposals]	October 2017

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Note: This form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after approval or on the defer date.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If YES, for what reason:

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form – NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer:

Alice Wilcock has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance and –if relevant- Legal teams have commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

Corporate Investment Board:

The Corporate Investment Board reviewed this proposal on 12 June 2017.

HEAD OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

Signature:



Date:

12.06.17